

SMUDGING AND PIPE CEREMONIES POLICY

1. PURPOSE

The University of Sudbury respects and supports the Indigenous cultural and spiritual practices associated with the use of the four sacred medicines (sage, sweetgrass, cedar and tobacco) in the tradition of smudging. To ensure that the entire University community is respected, the university has created the following policy.

2. AUTHORITY

The following legal documents provide the basis for the creation of a positive smudging policy:

- [Smoke Free Ontario Act](#), S.O. 2017, Chapter 26, recognizes the traditional use of tobacco by Indigenous people for the purposes of cultural and spiritual use
- [Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms](#), “Guarantee of Rights and Freedoms” and “Democratic Rights.”
- [Ontario Human Rights Code](#), R.S.O. 1990, c. H. 19, Part 1, “Freedom from Discrimination”

3. SMUDGING AND PIPE CEREMONIES

Smudging is an Indigenous practice of the burning of certain sacred medicines in order to create a cleansing smoke, which is used to purify people, as well as ceremonial and ritual spaces, and ceremonial tools and objects.

Use of traditional medicines in their original form for smudging is preferred, however when deemed necessary by the person conducting the ceremony, alternatives could be used such as a ‘liquid’ smudge (a blend of oils made from traditional medicine which is sprayed in the area where smudging is to take place) or ‘dry’ smudge (where the traditional medicines are rubbed in the hands and smelled by the recipient of the smudge).

Students, faculty, staff, Elders and cultural teachers may use sage, sweetgrass, cedar and tobacco for individual or group, traditional spiritual practices such as opening and closing prayers, individual or group smudging, feasts, Sacred Circle ceremonies, Pipe ceremonies and drumming and singing in the designated locations.

4. DESIGNATED LOCATIONS

These ceremonies may be held in the following locations on the *Université de Sudbury* campus:

- **Canisius Hall**
Due to the ventilation system in Canisius Hall, smudging and pipe ceremonies shall be done in moderation to prevent any activation of fire alarms or spreading excessive odours in the building. If the fire alarm is triggered, the individual or the group holding the ceremony will be responsible for emergency service fees.
- **Nishnaabe-gkendaaswin Teg**
The Nishnaabe-gkendaaswin Teg (the arbour) is an exterior place of Indigenous knowledge. When the arbour is used for ceremonies, appropriate protocols are followed according to the cultural tradition of the person leading the ceremony as well as protocol and procedures established by the *Université de Sudbury*.

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To hold smudging and pipe ceremonies in the Canisius Hall or in the arbour, please fill out the [Facilities Rental Agreement](#) or contact the Finance Department at 705-673-5661, extension 416.

Reservations must be made at least seven (7) days prior to holding the ceremonies so that the University may prepare the following:

- Notify the Facilities and Security Manager at least seven (7) days prior to the ceremony;
- Notify the university community at least three (3) days prior, by posting notices at the entrance to Canisius Hall and by sending an email. These notices will include the date and ceremony times.

5. NEXT REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed every five (5) years or earlier, as needed.

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